



Department of State: TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

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1970 MAY 6 PM 1 47

PLEASE DELIVER SOONEST CARL MARCY, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, BY MAY. 6

FROM LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Juchling* DATE *10/4/80*

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

WE MET THIS MORNING FOR OVER ONE HOUR WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MATAK (CONSIDERED BY MANY AS REAL POWER IN LON NOL GOVERNMENT),
FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHIEF OF STAFF. IN CORDIAL AND FRANK
CONVERSATION, FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE TO US:

1. DURING PAST 24 HOURS NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG (NVA/VC)
HAD TAKEN TOWNS OF KRATIE, SENMONORAM AND BANAM (NEAR DEAM RO ON
MEKONG RIVER), AND ADVANCED TO WITHIN 18 MILES OF PHNOM PENH ON
BASSAC RIVER AND TO WITHIN 30 MILES ON MEKONG.
2. AT BANAM NVA/VC HAD HANDED OUT ARMS TO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE
THEREBY VIRTUALLY TRIPLING THEIR STRENGTH. THIS OCCURRING ALSO IN
OTHER AREAS WITH RESULT EARLIER ESTIMATE OF ENEMY STRENGTH (54,
500) MUST BE RAISED. INITIAL NVA/VC ATTACKS ORIGINATED IN AREAS
WITH LARGE VIETNAMESE MINORITIES. (DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION,
CHIEF OF STAFF CAME IN TO TELL US - "AT THE REQUEST OF LON NOL"
THAT A DELEGATION OF PEOPLE FROM BANAM HAD REPORTED THAT NVA/VC
HAD DECAPITATED ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY WHICH HAD REFUSED
TO "RALLY" TO NVA/VC).
3. LON NOL HAD INVITED PEOPLE NEAR BANAM TO LEAVE THE AREA AND
HAD ORDERED CAMBODIAN GARRISON AT SVAY RIENG TO MOVE BACK TOWARD
BANAM. SVAY RIENG GARRISON THUS FAR UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF
DESTRUCTION OF TWO BRIDGES ON HIGHWAY 1.
4. US AND ARVN FORCES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MOVE DEEPER INTO
CAMBODIA ALONG ROUTE 1 BEYOND SVAY RIENG. WOULD FAVOR ARVN ADVANCE
TO CLEAR HIGHWAY AS FAR AS PHNOM PENH.
5. US/ARVN PRESENCE ALONG CAMBODIAN BORDER IS PUSHING NVA/VC
DEEPER INTO CAMBODIA. ENEMY BELIEVED PLANNING TO TAKE
EVERYTHING EAST OF MEKONG. INFILTRATION TOWARD PHNOM PENH
INCREASING AND CAPITAL WILL BE IN DANGER OF FALLING WITHIN TEN
DAYS.
6. CAMBODIANS KILLED OR MISSING SINCE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES
ESTIMATED AS MORE THAN 11,000. NVA/VC KILLED ESTIMATED AT 200.

ABOUT 3,200

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7. CAMBODIA HOPEFUL OF MILITARY AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. ONLY PHILIPPINES MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY BUT WITH AIR OF UNCERTAINTY.

8. IF US SENDS NEW TYPE EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH CAMBODIANS UNFAMILIAR, U.S. INSTRUCTORS WOULD BE NEEDED, BUT THIS DECISION IS UP TO US.

9. FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTORS ARE PERMITTED BY TERMS OF GENEVA ACCORDS WHICH HANOI ALSO SIGNED. THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN ACCEPTING US AID AND REMAINING NEUTRAL. CAMBODIA HAS NO INTENTION OF CHANGING ITS POLICY WITH REGARD TO SEATO SINCE IT PREFERS REMAIN NEUTRAL.

10. CAMBODIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO PRESENCE US AND ARVN FORCES IN CAMBODIA ("US AND ARVN ATTACKS ALLOW US TO REMAIN FREE"). CAMBODIANS CONFIDENT ARVN WILL WITHDRAW WHEN MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. US DECISION TO HELP CAMBODIA ESSENTIAL TO FREEDOM OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND TO "END THE WAR IN INDOCHINA."

11. LON NOL GOVERNMENT ORIGINALLY HAD NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING A WAR BUT NVA/VC HAD REFUSED TO GET OUT OF CAMBODIA. LON NOL HAD DEMANDED THEY LEAVE BUT NVA/VC WOULD NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE PRESENCE. CAMBODIANS STILL HOPEFUL OF NEGOTIATIONS AND IF NVZ/VC ASKS, CAMBODIA WILL TALK "BAP ONLY ABOUT WITHDRAWAL." PARTITION WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

12. GENEVA ACCORDS STILL IN EFFECT AND CAMBODIAN ICC HAS NOT BEEN ABOLISHED BUT ONLY "PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED". MATAK AND FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED TO ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THIS POINT).

13. RECENTLY ARRIVED KHMER KROM TROOPS WERE SENT TO THE FRONT TODAY. THEY HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO CAMBODIAN ARMY AND WILL BE PAID BY CAMBODIA.

14. CAMBODIA MUST HAVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO FINANCE COST OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN ARE NOW UNDERWAY. US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ALSO REQUESTED BUT US POSITION "HAS NOT BEEN EXPLAINED." (FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT RUBBER EXPORTS CUT OFF ENTIRELY AND PRODUCTION CUT IN HALF. ALSO SAID CAMBODIA NOW PRINTING MONEY WHICH WILL FURTHER INCREASE INFLATIONARY PRESSURE.

15. 150,000 CAMBODIAN ARMS FOR THEM. (WE NC. 150,000 PLUS EXISTING 35,000 MEN AND RECENT 10,000 ADDS UP TO APPROXIMATELY 200,000 FIGURE CITED AS BASIS FOR CAMBODIAN ARMS REQUEST).

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16. AIRPLANES HAVE HELPED CAMBODIANS HOLD SEVERAL KEY POINTS. MORE ARE NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE "TO PUSH ENEMY BACK." MOST PRESSING NEED IS FOR TROOPS CARRYING HELICOPTERS OR PLANES. CAMBODIANS OFTEN PREVENTED FROM MOVING TROOPS BY ROAD BECAUSE OF DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES BY NVA/VC. SHORTAGE OF PUCTS FOR EXISTING T-28'S, AND SKYRAIDERS AND RUNNING LOW ON MUNITIONS FOR USE WITH MIG-17'S.

17. CAMBODIANS PLAN BREAK RELATIONS WITH PRG (NLF) TOMORROW.

WHEN OUR MEETING ENDED, MATAK SAID LON NOL PLEASED "US SENATE" HAD SENT OBSERVERS TO SEE SERIOUS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND HAD ASKED MATAK TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESPONSE.

OUR OBSERVATIONS, BASED ON FOREGOING AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. CAMBODIANS THINK THAT PEOPLE IN US DO NOT UNDERSTAND SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND THAT IF THEY DID THE NEED TO HELP CAMBODIA WOULD BE EVIDENT.

2. CAMBODIANS THINK US WILL PRODUCE WHAT IS NECESSARY TO SAVE CAMBODIA AND THAT IT WILL ARRIVE WITHIN TEN DAYS.

3. PERHAPS BASED ON LATTER ASSUMPTION, GOVERNMENT SHOWS NO DISPOSITION TO COMPROMISE EVEN IF GIVEN A CHANCE.

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